

MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

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No. 10.

ALASKAN RELICS AND CURIOSITIES.

(Continued.)

But what interested us most in this collection was a stone amulet, with an inscription, part of which was supposed to be in Runic letters, and which Mr. De Costa conjectured to be the work of some Northman of the eleventh or twelfth century. As no one, we believe, has yet ventured to interpret this writing, we will submit an opinion of its import, hoping that, if in error, some member of the Philological Society will favor us with a better solution.

Above the inscription are two eyes, with a hole in the centre of the forehead, and two small circles below, which may, perhaps, be supposed to answer for nostrils, though rather too small. In that case the face would find its class with several others in the collection, where the face is foreshortened, leaving very little space below the mouth. Some of the images of this class have a great resemblance to the fish god of the Polynesians. In this specimen the letters occupy the place of the mouth. The characters are sharp and well cut, six in number, as follows:

D I O I K D

The first and last character has the stem slightly elongated, like the runic letter D or TH. The fifth letter may be read as K or G, both these sounds being represented among the Norsemen by the same

character. We have then to make our choice between *Dio Igd* and *Thio Ikth*. Either way, it is the *God Icht* or *Ikth*, which it seems is the usual name by which their heathen deity was designated.

Now we are to suppose that the old Norse God Ygg, under whose ash tree (hence called *Igdrasil*) the gods sat in council, wandered over in person or by his priests to America, and that here his older name has been preserved while the more modern one of Odin or Woden has sunk to oblivion? That Ygg is the older appellation, we learn from the *Grimnis Mal*, verse 54:

"I that am Odin, before was called
Ygg,
Still earlier known by the name of
Thund,
Waker and Sklfing, Walfother,
Throptur;
Among the gods, I was Gautur and
Ialk,
Ofni and Swafni; all, as I deem,
Names that belong to none but me."

If instead of the soft pronunciation G and D, we give the consonants in this inscription the sharper sounds K and Th, which they usually had in the old Norse, the words become *Thio* and *Ikth*, the former corresponding to the Greek *deos* rather than the Latin *deus*, the Indian *deo* or *deva*, the Chinese *tao* or *tau*, the Hawaiian or Tahitian *a-tua*, and the *teu* or *teut* of Mexico and Central America.

But if we accept the reading *Thio Ikth*, the idea suggests itself whether this idol, after all, may not be a corruption of the Christian emblem *Ixodus* or *ichthus*, a fish, which we know was in very early ages made to symbolize Christianity, this word being used as a sort of monogram, composed of the initials of the words *Iesus Xristos deus (h)uio Soter*—Jesus Christ, the Savior, Son of God. As if to lend countenance to this interpretation, one of the wooden idols dug up from the graves represents a man holding in his hand a cross; not the common cross, so often found on pagan images, but a true Latin cross, with the foot longer than the arms. But the figure holding this cross is nude, a circumstance too heathenish to allow the supposition that any form of Christianity could have sunk so low; unless, indeed, it be taken to signify that like the Hindu sanyasi the votary of this religion has attained to the primeval sinlessness and purity of Eden. We should at any rate require very strong evidence before believing that the Alaskan mythology ever had any connection with Christianity, directly or indirectly.

(To be continued.)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(Continued.)

Rosa Americana Half-Penny; obverse, bust of the king laureated, GEORGIUS DEI GRATIA REX; reverse, a rose bush with full blown flower and bud, ROSA SINE SPINA, very rare. \$52 50.

Laureated head of George II. facing left, GEORGIUS II., D. G. REX. *The famous Rosa Americana struck in steel; for an account of which see Snelling, page 40; in splendid condition, unique.* \$18.

Rosa Americana, without date; uncrowned rose, bright and uncirculated, extremely rare. \$10.

Nova Constellatio Dollar; obverse, a wreath surrounding the inscription "U. S. 1000," legend "Libertas Justitia, 1783;" reverse, an eye, surrounded by rays, forming a sun, between the rays thirteens stars, NOVA CONSTELLATIO. This coin is the pattern and earliest design for a United States Dollar or piece of 1000 mills, and it is not unlikely that it is one of the pieces referred to in the diary of Robert Morris, who, under date of April 2, says: "I sent for Mr. Dudley, who delivered me a piece of silver coin, being the first that has been struck as an American coin." From the absence of any "ring," I infer that this piece is not silver, but some soft metal. Believed not to exist in any other collection, size 21½. \$70.

Nova Constellatio Half Dollar, 1783; design like the preceding, with the exception of a mint mark of three leaves, and a difference in the arrangement of the legend; within the wreath "U. S. 500." Companion piece to the preceding, and one equally as rare, size 17½. \$32 50.

James II. Tin Piece; original, nearly proof, scarce. 50 cents.

Nova Constellatio, 1783, perfectly uncirculated, almost proof, in this condition a very rare piece. \$1 12.

Nova Constellatio, 1783, small U. S.; as fine as the last. \$1.

Nova Constellatio, 1783, large U. S.; very fine. \$1.

Nova Constelatio, 1783; sun, with blunt rays, fine, scarce. \$1 25.

Nova Constellatio, 1783; perfectly uncirculated, and a very full, sharp impression. \$1 12.

Nova Constelatio, 1785, U. S. in script; very fine indeed. \$1 12.

Nova Constellatio, 1785, equally fine. \$1.

Nova Constellatio, 1785, a different die, fine. \$1.

Three Nova Constellations, both dates, all different varieties, all good, two being uncirculated; a desirable lot. \$1 50.

U. S. A., or Bar Cent, of the rare variety, in which the S. passes over the A.; very fine indeed, and guaranteed original. \$5.

U. S. A., or Bar Cent, the other type, with the A passing over the S.; in a perfect, uncirculated condition, and genuineness guaranteed, rare. \$5.

U. S. A. or Bar Cent. The peculiarity of this piece consists in its small size, being only about half the weight of the preceding, and in the peculiar arrangement of the letters U. S. A., which stand entirely separate, instead of being combined as in the Cent. Slightly pierced, in all other respects in fine condition; without doubt a contemporary issue with the Cents; *believed to be unique.* \$18.

(*To be continued.*)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

The whole amount of paper money issued during the war was about three hundred millions of dollars; but the collections made by the Continental Government in various ways cancelled, from time to time, the one-third; so that the maximum of circulation at no one period exceeded two hundred millions. Nor did it reach that sum until its depreciation had compelled Congress to take it in, and pay it out at the rate, of forty paper dollars for one in hard money.

It kept nearly at par for the first year, during which period only nine millions were issued; an amount

about equal to the specie then held in all the Colonies. And when used in that moderate way, it passed with very little depreciation; but soon after, when the emissions increased rapidly, it fell proportionably in value, going on from year to year in its downward course, until Congress, as we have seen above, fixed the scale, by law, at forty for one. But million following million, in quick succession, lessened its exchangeable rate, from day to day, to the value of five hundred, and then one thousand for one, when it ceased to circulate.

Congress had exchanged some of the notes at forty for one, by giving the holder loan-office certificates at par, and offered to redeem the whole in the same way, at one thousand for one when they had sunk to that price. But those very loan-office and other certificates of debt bore in market no higher price than two shillings and sixpence on the pound, or eight dollars for one; so that very few availed themselves of that offer.

Those public securities bearing various names, such as loan-office certificates, depreciation certificates, final settlements, etc., were given to the public creditors who had demands for moneys lent, supplies furnished, services rendered, etc., and constituted the congressional debt at the end of the war. They consisted of obligations or bonds, bearing interest at six per cent., and were entirely distinct in character and tenor from the money bills, which bore no interest, and were used altogether as currency. The value of those certificates in market, as I have already said, was not more than seven or eight for one, until the adoption of the present Constitution, in 1789, when they were funded, and rose to par.

(*To be continued.*)

WILLIAM MULREADY, R. A.

BY J. C. WILSON.

(Concluded.)

Mulready also designed a series of thirty-two illustrations for an edition of the "Vicar of Wakefield," published in 1840, some of which he afterwards painted; and, as examples of book wood-cut illustrations, they are almost perfect.

In the year 1848, a great many of his pictures were brought together for exhibition by the Society of Arts and excited general admiration. He was a learner during his whole life, and remained a life student of the Academy till within a day or two of his death. For many years he lived at Bayswater, where he died on the 7th of July, 1863, and was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery. There is now a bust of him, by Weekes, in the National Gallery.

Reviewing his career as an artist, we find that Mulready first began with "high art," but soon took to landscape painting and subjects of character and humor. He was at one time a most diligent student of the Dutch masters, fruits of which study were visible in the numerous figure pictures which he painted from 1810 till his death. His early pictures were of small size. From about 1824 he aimed at greater freedom in drawing and richness of coloring, and had an unequivocal success. The most admired of his works were: "The Flight Interrupted," 1815; "Idle Boys," 1815; "Wolf and the Lamb," 1820; "The Last In," 1835; "First Love," 1839; "Fair Time," 1840; "Train up a Child," 1841; "Crossing the Ford," 1842; "The Whistonian Controversy," 1843; "Choosing the Wedding Gown," 1845; "Women Bathing," 1849; and "The Toy Seller," not finished, 1861.

In the library of the British Museum are: "The Grasshopper's

Feast," "The Butterflies' Ball," and several other children's books, the illustrations of which are said to be by Mulready. In 1866, a work appeared, entitled "Memorials of Mulready," collected by F. G. Stephens, which contained photographs from fourteen of his paintings. The Arundel Society also have published thirty photographs from his best pictures. William Godwin, the celebrated political writer, gave, in the form of a child's book, a most interesting account of the early life and studies of Mulready, under the title of "The Looking Glass; or, True History of the Early Years of an Artist," by Theophilus Marcliffe. This little book, which was published in 1805, has now become of the greatest rarity, and contains facsimiles of some of Mulready's earliest sketches.—*S. C. Magazine, Eng.*

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

The drawings for the new academy, upon which Mr. J. H. Windrum has been engaged, were finished on the 20th ult. The proposed structure will have a frontage of 180 feet on Race street, and 60 feet on Nineteenth. It will afford three times the accommodation of the present building on Broad street. It will have a basement, and rise to the height of two stories above. The lower story, to be circled by one gallery, will serve as the library of the institution; the upper, to be circled by two galleries, will be the museum. The library will be 60 by 134 feet. The space below the gallery will be divided into fifteen or twenty small rooms for the purpose of study, the remainder of the ground floor being occupied by apartments for artists and the curators, and rooms for the society's publications. There will also be a

printing office and bookbindery on this floor, together with every appliance for study. As mentioned, the second floor, with its galleries, will hold the museum. It will be excellently well lighted by tall windows reaching from the floor to the ceiling up past all the galleries without a break. There will be forty of these windows.

Complete and spacious, however, as the new structure will be, it is only designed to serve as a wing to the main building to be erected at some future time, when the needs and resources of the society will warrant the undertaking. A *fac simile* of it will be built, when, the curators themselves do not know, at the corner of Cherry and Nineteenth streets. Between these two will rise the main edifice, which we can well believe will be no shame to the architecture of the city when finished.

A SCIENTIFIC DISASTER.

The following "pome" relates to untoward circumstances that terminated the recent session of the Academy of Natural Sciences, at Smith's Crossings, Tuolumne Co, California. It is to be deplored that organizations undertaken in the highest interests of humanity should come to so abrupt a smash:

I reside at Table Mountain, and my
name is Truthful James;
I am not up to small deceit, or any
sinful games;
And I'll tell in simple language what I
know about the row
That broke up our society upon the
Stanislaus.

But first I would remark, that it is not
a proper plan
For any scientific gent to whale his
fellow man,
And, if a member don't agree with his
peculiar whim,
To lay for that same member for to
"put a head" on him.

Now nothing could be finer or more
beautiful to see
Than the first six months' proceedings
of that same society,
Till Brown of Calaveras, bought a lot
of fossil bones
That he found within a tunnel near the
tenement of Jones.

Then Brown he read a paper, and he
reconstructed there,
From those same bones, an animal that
was extremely rare;
And Jones then asked the chair for a
suspension of the rules,
Till he could prove that those same
bones was one of his lost mules.

Then Brown he smiled a bitter smile,
and said his greatest fault
Was that he had been trespassing on
Jones' family vault:
He was a most sarcastic man, this
quiet Mr. Brown,
And on several occasions he had cleaned
out the town.

Now I hold it is not decent for a scien-
tific gent
To say another is an ass—at least to all
intent;
Nor should the individual who happens
to be meant
Reply by heaving rocks at him to any
great extent.

Then Abner Dean, of Angels, raised a
point of order—when
A chunk of old red sandstone took him
in the abdomen,
And he smiled a kind of sickly smile,
and curled up on the floor,
And the subsequent proceedings in-
terested him no more.

Then, in less time than I write it, every
member did engage
In a warfare with the remnants of a
palezoic age,
And the way they heaved those fossils
in their anger was a sin,
And the skull of an old mammoth caved
the head of Thompson in.

And this is all I have to say of these
improper games,
For I live at Table Mountain, and my
name is Truthful James;
And I've told in simple language what
I know about the row
That broke up our society upon the
Stanislaus.

ADDENDA.

BY THE EDITOR.

We grieve for the sad tidings that
 "Truthful James" has sent,
 If *science* has no better boys, it's well
 they *let her went*;
 But from the crash and ruin, boys, *when*
things become serene,
 Remit the change you owe us for the
Monthly Magazine!

Oh! "Truthful James" be "*Honest*
Jim," and quiet down the fuss,
 And gather up the debris resulting from
 the "mußs;"
 Fix up the broken fossils and patch
 each shattered jaw,
 And reorganize the society upon the
 Stanislaus!

Let "Abner Dean, of Angels" be
 made the president,
 Provided he recovers from the sand-
 stone accident;
 Expel Brown, of Calaveras, for the
 fraud of fossil bones,
 Which was a personal *ass*-ault on the
 family of Jones.

Pray call a stated meeting; but lock
 the fossils safe,
 That tempting skulls and minerals may
 not your temper chafe;
 And in your *book of minutes* record a
 solemn vow,
 That "serimmages" are *done for* upon
 the Stanislaus.
 September, 1869.

NUMISMATIC VISITORS.

Two representatives of the Essex
 County Numismatic and Archaeo-
 logical Society, of Newark, N. J.,
 popped in upon us, rather unex-
 pectedly, last month, and a very
 pleasant and agreeable visit it was.
 Joseph Lelarge and J. W. Poinier,
 Jr., both enthusiastic collectors and
 perfect gentlemen in every sense of
 the word, are names that will here-
 after add lustre to our long list of
 patrons and friends. The reader
 may suppose our visitors to be
 French gentlemen, as their names
 incline to that belief, but we can
 assert that both are fine specimens
 of genuine American citizens.

PECULIARITIES OF AMERI-
CAN COINS.

NEW SERIES. No. 11.

BY E. MASON, JR.

"OVER-STRIKES."

What are termed "over-strikes"
 on coins occur by the successive
 use of dies for two different years.
 The earliest known "over-strike"
 on the U. S. copper cents is the
 1798 over the '97, followed by 1800
 over 1799; 1807 over 1806; 1810
 over '09; 1811 over '10; 1819 over
 '18; 1820 over '19; 1823 over '22;
 1824 over '23; 1839 over '38. In
 the case of the U. S. copper half
 cents, the earliest and perhaps the
 only "over-strikes" are 1802 over
 1800 and 1808 over 1807. The
 American colonial copper coins
 present many curious and interest-
 ing "over-strikes". In some in-
 stances, these dies of the Con-
 necticut cents were used on the well
 worn George III farthings and on
 Nova Constellatio of 1783, pro-
 ducing confused and amusing read-
 ings of the different mottoes and
 dates.

In regard to the silver coinage of
 the U. S., the earliest "over-strike"
 occurs in the 1802 (dollar) over the
 1801.

(To be continued.)

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

Edward Cogan announces a sale
 of coins, September 27 and 28, at
 Bangs Merwin & Co., Broadway,
 New York. We have received and
 forwarded catalogues to our patrons.
 This sale includes the usual variety
 of American and foreign coins, me-
 dals, etc., and has the additional at-
 traction of many rare and valuable
 United States pattern pieces. As
 we go to press, the 25th of Septem-
 ber, for the following month, we are
 unable to give farther particulars.
 A full account of the New York sale
 will appear in November number.

NEW YORK SALE.

SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28.

THE TAYLOR COLLECTION, PHILADELPHIA.

This sale was rather slimly attended, but there was no abatement of interest or disposition to buy on the part of the audience. Monday evening, the first night's sale, the receipts reached \$1021, which was wonderful when the character of most of the pieces is considered. It is true there were some very fine and rare pieces in Monday night's sale, but if the ordinary coins had not sold high, the sequel would have been much different.

Tuesday night presented the same array of intelligent faces, and was rather more attractive than the first night, in consequence of the splendid display of pattern pieces which were to be sold, as Mr. Cogan frankly avowed, "without the slightest reserve to the highest bidder."

Notwithstanding the fact that all the dies of the patterns of dates previous to 1869 have been destroyed, the patterns in the sale were disposed of at very low rates. The following are the chief pieces, with price realized:

1795 silver dollar, . . .	\$10 50
1797 " . . .	9 75
1855 " proof, . . .	18 00
1856 " " . . .	19 00
1857 " proof set, . . .	41 00
1858 " " . . .	23 00
1792 Washington cent, . . .	49 00
1793 cent, wreath, . . .	35 00
1793 " Ameri, . . .	51 00
1792 half disme, . . .	42 50
1838 proof dollar, . . .	41 00
1839 " . . .	27 50

Pattern five cent pieces, copper, about ten dollars each.

Pattern five cent pieces, nickel, from four to eight dollars each.

The entire lot brought the sum of \$2375.

THE CURIOSITY SALE.

Catalogues of this sale, to take place 13th and 14th inst., have been mailed to all our subscribers. There are many interesting relics in this collection from the old Peale's Museum, Chestnut street, Philadelphia. Indian dresses, stone implements, philosophical instruments, Revolutionary documents, relics and autograph letters; fossils, shells, portraits and plates. A very interesting and valuable painting by the Elder Peale, founder of Peale's Museum, entitled "Pratt's Garden," is among the choice gems of the sale. Pratt's Garden afterwards became Lemon Hill, now a portion of the celebrated Fairmount Park, of this city. Washington's nightcap, shoe buckles and shaving brush (from Peale's Museum), Lady Washington's reticule, gold embroidered mitts and silver thimble are among the relics. Bids will be received by us, and ten per cent. commission charged on all articles purchased.

INDIAN RELICS.

Prof. Morse, with a party of some half dozen others, a short time since, were searching for relics on the hill in Throgmorton's Cover, near Pine Grove, in Marblehead, and dug up two human skeletons, supposed to be those of Indians. Both the bodies were found under a heap of shells, from which it is inferred that they had been buried ages ago, especially as some of the shells were scallops, of which bivalves it is stated there is no record of any being found in Massachusetts Bay.

OUR FIRST NEW YORK COIN SALE.

By reference to another column, it will be seen that we shall offer a fine collection of United States coins, medals, pattern pieces, etc., at public sale, in New York.

UNIQUE NEW JERSEY COIN.

The coin sale of the 6th, 7th and 8th of September, in this city, had among its rare pieces a very peculiar New Jersey coin, dated 1787, "Horse Head Left." This piece presented several peculiar features, first, in date (the horse head being to the obverse left); next, the plow being reversed from the usual position on the New Jersey coins, of 1788, *horse head left*; and last in the small twig or ornament beneath the horse's head. There was considerable competition to possess this remarkable coin. Dr. E. Maris, of this city (author of a work on the U. S. Copper Coinage of 1794) was the successful bidder. The piece, has fallen into proper hands for preservation and examination. We understand that Dr. Maris is about to photograph the rare New Jersey piece, and is also preparing, for the numismatic public, an article fully describing each peculiarity of the coin. The price obtained was \$25—far too low for a coin in such good condition and of such extraordinary rarity.

A FINE CABINET OF COINS.

By special invitation, we recently visited the residence of Wm. Few Smith, Esq., Camden, N. J., and feasted our numismatic eyes upon a rare collection of fine coins. Mr. Few Smith heads his cabinet with a number of unique pieces, the valuable Washington Cent, alluded to in previous numbers of our magazine, among the number. The United States cents are nearly complete, and form a set, with but few exceptions, of entirely uncirculated pieces. We can only mention a few of the interesting and beautiful pieces, in this splendid collection, as follows: Copper Disme; Immune Columbia; Nova Constellatio; small 1792 pattern; Carolina Elephant; British

settlement of Kentucky; Annapolis threepence; proof silver Washington funeral; 1794 dollar; 1823 quarter (finest known); pair 1724 Wood, farthing and half farthing; uncirculated Rosas, penny, halfpennies and farthings; finest New Jersey known; 1796 half cent, etc.

OUR FIRST NEW YORK COIN SALE.

It is with pleasure we announce a sale of rare and valuable American coins, to take place on the 18th and 19th of this month. Among the rare pieces to be sold are 1794 U. S. silver dollar; 1838, '39, '51 and '52 proof dollars; splendid series U. S. cents, including Randall's celebrated Jefferson Head Cent of 1795 (*finest known*); a fine series of dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, half dimes, proof nickel and bronze coinage; a large and valuable assortment of pattern pieces, many of them excessively rare; rare medals; foreign and American gold and silver coins; also, a choice lot of extremely rare Grecian and Roman pieces, with a miscellaneous variety of coins, cards, medals, etc. Catalogues have been mailed to each of our readers, in ample time to examine and send in their bids. Parties living in or near New York can obtain catalogues at our office, No. 54 Wall street.

THE HUMBOLDT MEDAL.

The Humboldt medal, struck in the United States to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the birthday of the illustrious German philosopher, naturalist and traveler, is a work of great merit. The medal, two inches in diameter, is composed of bronze; the obverse presents a profile head of Von Humboldt, copied from the best models to be procured in Germany, with the inscription, "Alexander V. Humboldt," in large letters, and

underneath the name, in smaller letters, "Born Sept. 14, 1769; died May 6, 1859;" the reverse contains the legend, "Earth and Heaven he explored, revealed nature and freed the mind." This medal was executed by Anthony C. Paquet, of Philadelphia, the skilled die sinker, whose other medals and whose seven years' service in the United States Mint, have proved his ability as an artist.

OUR FOURTH PHILA. COIN SALE.

The sale of Captain Thorn's collection of coins came off on the 6th, 7th and 8th of September, as announced. The bidding was rather tame compared to previous sales, and prices realized rather below the market value. The *unique* New Jersey piece was sold to a gentleman of this city for twenty-five dollars, and was certainly worth one hundred dollars. The sale was well attended; but the announcement of a New York sale of similar coins no doubt affected the prices somewhat, and we cannot therefore mark the sale as anything more than an ordinary affair.

SECOND PHILADELPHIA CURIOSITY SALE.

We announce a second sale of curiosities, relics, etc., to come off some time this month. Catalogues will be ready about the 15th inst. and mailed to all our subscribers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHITE'S CORNERS, Sept., 1869.

GENTS:—I took my collection to the Erie County Fair, and got the first premium, \$5. There were three entries of collections.

Yours, truly,

EDWARD S. NOTT.

[Pleased to hear of your success. Editor.]

SOCIAL VISIT.

We had the pleasure of a visit, last month, from Mr. Edward Buckley, of Birmingham, England, a most ardent collector of postage stamps. We enjoyed a pleasant chat upon matters and things tribophilic, and found Mr. Buckley an agreeable and perfect gentleman. He was in possession of some excessively rare United States proofs and essays, and kindly presented us with a rare specimen. Mr. Buckley's name adds one more to the list of subscribers to our Monthly in Europe.

OUR NEW YORK BRANCH.

Having opened a Coin Depot in New York city and supplied it with a good stock of fine coins, medals, etc., we shall be pleased to see our patrons and are prepared to buy, sell or exchange coin of all kinds. Our office is at No. 54 Wall street.

COIN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

I offer the first volume of Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, bound in good style, for an 1804 U. S. cent. This cent *must* be in good condition.

C. R. S.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. S. & Co., BRIGHTON, ENG.—The United States Internal Revenue stamps cannot be used for the payment of postage. A great many persons use a cancelling stamp with the date and name of the town in which they reside, which accounts for the "postmarks" on those in possession of your correspondent "Alpha."

A. S. & Co., BATH, ENGLAND.—The design of the Ecnador humbug, described in our last, is the same as that of the genuine issue

R. M., BOSTON.—Keep on “gunning”—faint effort never won rare coin. Take courage by honest Curio's example (your search for 1804 Dollar being similar to his for the medal, to fill a long existing gap in the series); but do not forget the coin when found. The poet says of Curio:

“What toil did honest Curio take,
What strict inquiries did he make,
To get one medal wanting yet,
And perfect all his Roman set;
'Tis found! and oh! his happy lot!
'Tis bought, locked up and lies for-
got!”

J. W. H., PHILADELPHIA.—By the kindness of Robert C. Davis, Esq., of this city, the only competent authority on U. S. pattern pieces, we are enabled to give you the number, composition and ascertained weights of the postal currency, viz:

No.	1863.	weight.
1.	Aluminum,	8 grs.
2.	“	11 “
3.	“ milled edge,	11 “
4.	“ with $\frac{3}{4}$ silver,	28 “
5.	Silver, standard,	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ “
6.	$\frac{1}{4}$ “ and $\frac{3}{4}$ copper,	25 “
7.	Tin, block tin,	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ “
8.	“ and copper,	25 “
	1868.	

9. Aluminum, 12 “

M. S. T., SAN FRANCISCO.—Sent you sale catalogues; also coins purchased at our fourth Philadelphia sale. Sorry to hear the news from “Smith's Crossing.”

J. F. S., CHICAGO.—It is now generally believed that the CLARE ROTHE stamps are Paris forgeries. Doubts of the genuineness of the Fernando Po stamp have also been expressed.

A. P. G., ST LOUIS.—All the English envelopes now in use have the day, month and year of their fabrication on them. We can supply you with any of the values, uncanceled.

A. S. DEOKER, COLUMBUS, O.—All link or chain cents of 1793 have fifteen links on reverse. We never saw one with thirteen links. Send on a rubbing of a thirteen link '93. Snowden gives 1793 half cent with Washington's bust on obverse, in his Manual of Washington Pieces; but we must whisper in your private ear that such a piece does not exist in the collection at the U. S. Mint; nor do we believe there ever was such a coin made in 1793. The rubbing of 1795 is a common variety of that cent.

C. B., ST. LOUIS.—The Lubeck envelopes are found with the inscription on both the right and left of the stamp. Those with the inscription on the left were the earlier emissions.

O. S. M., NEWARK.—The value of the yellow Ionia Isles is *one* obolus, or half penny; that of the blue, 2 obolus, or one penny; and that of the red, 4 obolus, or two pence.

F. A. S., WILMINGTON.—The Malta half penny, was first issued on blue paper and is now seldom met with.

C. F. W., SALEM.—There is a lithograph of the 10 cent French unpaid stamp.

H. J. B., PATERSON.—We cannot promise to get you a V. R., but if you wish, will write to England for one.

C. McK., DETROIT.—The Hamburg adhesives have been issued both perforated and unperforated.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

PHILATELISM AS A FINE ART.

BY C. F.

(Continued.)

Great variety is observable in the shape, color and size of stamps. Triangular stamps are or have been

used in New Granada, Newfoundland and the Cape of Good Hope. Those of a diamond or lozenge shape are in vogue only in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The square, the circular, the oval, the oblong, the octagonal, the rectangular have also been current from time to time, in various portions of the world. Every kind of color, and nearly all shades of every kind, have been exhausted in the effort after beauty and originality of treatment. Stamps in two or three different colors are issued by Russia, Heligoland and Helsingfors, and among this class of stamps we may now include the United States fifteen cent stamp. The new United States two and three cent stamps, by the way, are excessively unpopular. They have a cheap and common look, without being bright enough to look tawdry. The United States has issued the largest stamp ever engraved. It is four inches long by two inches wide, and was intended for newspapers in quantities, but was soon withdrawn. The smallest of all postage stamps comes from Bolivia, and is under half an inch square. A few English merchants enjoy the privilege of using peculiar stamps with their names attached. These stamps are circular and of the size of a silver (American) dollar.

It comes natural to collectors to use a peculiar jargon. Adhesive stamps, for instance, are distinguished as perforated and unperforated, and envelopes as single and compound. Mysterious phrases are rife, such as "transverse oblong discs with surrounding spandrels," "sinuous edged shells," "right and left heads," "pearl circles with engine turned on network frames."

Among the caprices connected with the subject of stamps, it might be mentioned that in New Brunswick, Connell, the postmaster, had

his own likeness engraved on the local stamp. The home authorities suppressed the issue, however, and the vain official resigned in disgust.

(To be continued.)

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.

General Terrill, the Third Assistant Post Master General, in order to remove the dissatisfaction expressed against the present postage stamps, proposes to change them, and, with this view, he has directed the bank note company which furnishes them to prepare the designs for new issues. The heads of Washington, Jackson, Franklin, Lincoln and Jefferson are to be restored in place of the present designs, to be represented as profile busts, each to represent the various denominations. The stamps are to be larger than those now in use, and oblong. A month or two may elapse before the new stamps are ready.

SERVIA.

A very neat and tasty set of labels have been emitted by this country. The design consists of the head of the young Prince Michael Obrenovich IV to the left; value above, in Servian characters; Para below and value in each angle. The values and colors are as follows:

1 para,	yellow.	25 para	carmine.
10 "	brown.	35 "	pale green.
15 "	orange.	40 "	mauve.
20 "	blue.	50 "	dark green.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

The set of labels for this Transvaal Republic will, ere long, be in use. There are three values, one penny, sixpence and one shilling. What the designs and colors will be have not yet been decided. Full particulars will be given as soon as reliable information has been obtained in regard to them.

ANGOLA.

This Portugese colony has just been endowed by the mother country with a series of postage stamps of the same colors and values as that employed by her, but of a new type. The design consists of a crown on on a ground of waved lines in a rectangle, having at each side a Grecian ornament; at each angle is the figure of value and the name of the colony is inscribed in the upper margin and the value in full in the lower. The stamps are not perforated.—(*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*)

FRANCE.

The 1 centime stamp with the laureated head has appeared.

LA GUIRA.

We are informed that another of the issue described in our last has appeared of the value of half real, green.

COINS FOR SALE.

U. S. CENTS.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	very poor	\$ 50
1793	very fair	1 50
1793	very good	3 00
1794, '95 '96	good	1 50
1794, '95 '96	extra good.	2 50
1797, '98	very good.	50
1799	very poor.	2 00
1799	very fair.	5 00
1799	very good.	10 00
1800, '1, '2 '3	very good.	1 25
1804	fair.	1 50
1804	very fair.	2 50
1804	good.	5 00
1805, '06 '07	fair.	50
1805, '06 '07	good.	1 50
1808	fair.	25
1808	good.	50
1809	poor.	50
1809	good.	1 50
1810, '11 '12	poor.	25
1810, '11 '12	very good.	1 00
1813,	good.	50
1817, '20	very good.	40
1821, '24	good.	30
1825, '30	very good.	30
1857	very good.	15

(All other dates, 1831 to 1856 inclusive, 5 cents each. Special terms by letter for finer cents).

U. S. HALF CENTS.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	poor.	1 50
1793	good.	3 00
1794, '95	good.	1 50
1794, '95	good.	1 00
1797, 1800	fair.	50
1803, '4, '5, '6, '7,	very good.	50
1808, '09, '10,	very good.	50
1825, '29	very good.	25
1832, '35	very good.	25
1849, '51	very good.	15
1853, '57	very good.	50
No. 28 to 39,		3 00
1802, '11	very fair.	3 00

COLONIALS.

Conn. and N. J.	good.	25
Vir. and Mass.	good.	1 00
Ver. and N. Y.	good.	1 75
Const., 2 var.	good.	1 00
Louisiana R. F.	good.	1 00
Rosa Ameri. penny,	fair.	2 00
do do	good.	3 50
do halfpenny,	fair.	1 00
do do	good.	2 00
Washington, 1783,	good.	50
do 1791,	poor.	3 50
do 1791,	good.	5 00
Franklin cent,	good.	75
N. A. Token, 1781,	good.	50
Pitt Token, 1766,	fair.	1 25

PATTERNS.


1856 Nickel,	good.	1 50
do	very fine.	1 75
do	proof.	2 50
Indian Head, 1858,	nickel, good.	1 25
do do	proof.	1 50
Flying Eagle, 1855,	fine.	1 25
1854 no stars cent,	fine.	1 75
1836 silver dollar,	ex. good.	5 00
1863 2 cent piece,	proof.	3 00
do	proof.	3 00

FOREIGN COINS.

12 different,	very good.	50
15 do	very good.	1 00
10 do	extra fine.	1 50
5 Roman coins,	good.	1 00
25 silver coins.		5 00

STORE CARDS.

10 cards,	good.	35
10 cards,	fine.	50

 All the above sent by mail. Prices furnished and rare coins obtained, in any condition, upon application. Lists corrected monthly.